30. Administrative Efficiency.–In accordance with the scheme for the issue of departmental manuals, an Audit Code for the guidance of the members of the Audit Office was issued. Part I of the Public Works Code, containing departmental and administrative rules, has also been prepared. The revision of salaries in the subordinate ranks effected in 1098, on the recommendations of the Salaries Committee, rendered a revision of the powers of appointment vested in the various grades of higher officers necessary. The expansion of the Legislative Council has substantially increased the volume of work in the Secretariat and in the offices of the Heads of Departments and brought into prominence the urgent need for decentralisation of administrative powers generally. The Special Officer appointed to prepare schemes of devolution has sent up his recommendations relating to the several departments. He has also prepared a report on the audit of revenue receipts. To such audit I attach the utmost importance. We must stop all leakage of revenue. A committee to investigate the causes of delays in law courts and to suggest remedies is to be appointed shortly.

31. Conclusion.—So far I have dealt with activities during the last year of my predecessor's term of office and with my own small efforts during the past few months. Much has to be done. You can list the requirements without my aid. You will not, I am sure, expect me to parade policies or to flaunt schemes. I must first see my way reasonably clear to realising my plans before I tell you anything about them. Meanwhile no one will welcome more readily than I shall considered suggestions and well-informed, fair-minded criticism on matters of public interest. No Dewan of this State can achieve much without public support, active or moral. But I shall shirk no single task before me. Else I shall fail in my faithful duty to Her Highness who has called me to this high responsibility and to whom I am deeply beholden for statesmanlike guidance and sustaining confidence. In Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent we are indeed thrice blessed. Her ability and her goodness, her wisdom and her all-embracing sympathy, are daily made manifest; and is there one among us whose heart does not surge with gratitude to Her Highness? Loyalty to our Ruler is our greatest asset; it is the best purifier of our public life.

The Assembly adjourned at 12-41 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Tuesday, the 23rd February, 1926.

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